

Whitman
June 1870
Museum of the N. H. S., Montreal.
June 17th, 1870.

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 2211/27
REF. 155

Dear Sir,

It has so happened, as I told the committee, that it will be quite impossible for me to join any dredging expedition this summer.

We found that no reliable party could be got this ^{season} ~~summer~~, so that the committee have resolved to defer petitioning the Government for aid until next summer, i.e. that of 1871. In any case we were too late, & the session

was too far advanced, for us to hope for the aid solicited, this year.

My own views are that the proposal will meet with no favour at Ottawa, & that it is almost hopeless to look for assistance there. This is also the view of all those members of council to whom I have spoken on the subject.

The N. H. S might purchase some 300 fathoms of cheap, strong, rope, & a small but heavy dredge on a new principle,

Thus get a week or two's dredging between Gaspé & Anticosti, in from 100 to 150 fathoms. The cost of this would be comparatively small, & I think the notion quite feasible.

The success of an application to the Hon. the Minister of Marine is so very problematical, besides other difficulties, that it seems to me that it would hardly be ~~advisable~~ advisable to procure expensive apparatus, which we might never be in a position to use.

Many thanks for the pamphlets sent, they will be very useful for the Naturalist.

Mr. Hunter & his family have left Montreal more than a fortnight ago, & are now living in Hamilton.

At present we have no one on the premises, to take charge of the place.

At the last Annual Meeting you were again elected President of the Society.

Jeffreys has sent me a little of the Porcupine dredgings, but very little, & nothing of special interest in it.

Very sincerely yours,
J. F. Whiteaves.